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ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS (L'AILA). (TITLE SUPPLIED).

BY- STREVENS, PETER

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SPONSORED BY THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, THE INSTITUTE OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS OF STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY, AND AN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SPECIALISTS MEETING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NANCY, L'ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DE LINGUISTIQUE APPLIQUEE (L'AILA) WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1964. ITS PRINCIPAL AIMS ARE (1) COORDINATING RESEARCH, INFORMATION, AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS IN APPLIED LINGUISTICS, (2) ENCOURAGING THE SPREAD AND IMPROVEMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING ON AN INTERNATIONAL SCALE, (3) INVESTIGATING THE ROLE OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS IN LARGE SCALE STATISTICAL TREATMENT OF LANGUAGE, AND (4) SEEKING OUT RESEARCH GRANTS FOR SPECIALISTS IN THESE FIELDS. LARGELY DEPENDENT FINANCIALLY UPON NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, UNESCO, AND SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS, L'AILA PLANS BIENNIAL COLLOQUIA TO FURTHER ITS INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM. THIS ARTICLE WAS PUBLISHED IN THE "INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS IN LANGUAGE TEACHING," VOLUME 4, NUMBER 1, 1966, PAGES 63-65. (GJ)

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ANNOUNCEMENT

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS
L'ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DE LINGUISTIQUE APPLIQUEE
(L'AILA)

L'AILA came into existence on October 31st, 1964, as the result of a unanimous decision by some 250 specialists in applied linguistics, who were attending an International Colloquium organised by the Faculté des Arts et des Sciences Humaines of the University of Nancy. This decision followed more than two years of discussion and preparation in which the financial help of the Council of Europe played a large part.

Two main branches of applied linguistics were considered and included at the foundation of l'AILA. During the preparatory phase of the negotiations leading to its creation, the first of these branches to be discussed was *applied linguistics in language teaching*, and at one stage it seemed likely that l'AILA would limit its activities to language teaching. Indeed, as far as the Council of Europe is concerned it was their preoccupation with improving the standard of language learning and language teaching within the member countries of the Council that led them to encourage and support these preliminary activities. Perhaps the most important single occasion during this phase was a meeting of specialists in applied linguistics, organised by the Council of Europe and the Institute of Applied Linguistics of Stockholm University. It was here that a draft constitution for an international association was evolved, and the proposal was made for an international Colloquium at Nancy at which l'AILA could be formally established.

But however urgent and important the problems of modern methods of language teaching, the specialists assembled at Stockholm were quite clear that linguistics has many other applications. What is more, another main field of applied linguistics was strongly represented among the distinguished international patronage of the Nancy Conference. This other field is known in French as *le traitement automatique*; in English it has no single term of its own, but includes all or part of machine translation, automatic linguistic analysis, computational linguistics, mechano-linguistics, and data retrieval. It is therefore not surprising that l'AILA was established with two main "wings": applied linguistics in language teaching, and applied linguistics in large-scale statistical treatment of language.

The principal aims of l'AILA are laid down in its Constitution as follows: –

1. to co-ordinate research in applied linguistics;
2. to assist the dissemination and exchange of information about applied linguistics;
3. to encourage the experimental use of modern methods and techniques for teaching foreign languages, at various levels, to assist the development of such teaching and try to improve its effectiveness yet further;
4. to encourage research in the field of automatic language analysis and processing;
5. to promote the creation of university centres or departments of applied linguistics, and to organise specialised conferences and seminars;
6. to seek ways of establishing equivalence of standards between different certificates and diplomas in applied linguistics;

7. to press for attention to be paid to languages as yet rarely studied, to have more research devoted to them, and to increase the scale on which they are taught;
8. to help in finding research grants for specialists in these fields.

These are far-reaching aims which will take some years to achieve. Furthermore, a great deal will depend on the precise ways in which l'AILA sets out to tackle them. The first and most obvious requirement was to elect a Committee who would carry out the programme. An election was held at the Nancy meeting; the following constitute the present Committee of l'AILA: –

President: Professor Bernard POTTIER, Paris
Vice-Presidents: Professor ISAČENKO, Prague
Professor Martin JOOS (in his capacity as Director *pro tem.* of the Center for Applied Linguistics, Washington)
Secretary: Professor Peter STREVENS, Colchester
Assistant Secretary: Dr. Max GOROSCH, Stockholm
Publications Secretary: Professor Lydia HIRSCHBERG, Brussels
Treasurer: Professor Hans EGGERS, Saarbrücken

In working towards the aims of l'AILA, the Committee has accepted one of the main proposals of the Stockholm meeting of specialists, which was that l'AILA should operate as far as possible through national associations, encouraging these to be set up and co-ordinating their activities, but also providing an umbrella for those specialists whose countries have not yet established a national association.

It is perhaps in this direction that the most spectacular progress has been made in the year since l'AILA was born. The following national associations are known to have been formed:

L'Association Belge de Linguistique Appliquée
L'Association Française de Linguistique Appliquée
The Danish Applied Linguistics Association
The British Applied Linguistics Association (agreed in principle: not yet formally constituted.)
The Swedish Applied Linguistics Association (agreed in principle: not yet formally constituted.)

An association is under discussion in Canada, and in several other countries.

An example of the ways in which l'AILA's aims can be achieved through national organisations is supplied by the extremely successful *Séminaire de Linguistique Générale et Appliquée* held at Besançon from July 12 to August 6, 1965. This course was organised somewhat along the lines of the American Summer Linguistic Institutes; a number of scholars of international reputation, not only from France but also from Germany, the United States, the U.S.S.R., Great Britain, Sweden and elsewhere, made up the lecturing staff and conducted classes on a number of linguistic topics. The whole Seminar was arranged by *l'Association Francaise de Linguistique Appliquee* under the aegis of l'AILA.

The devolution of l'AILA's activities through national associations brings great advantages, not the least being that many more people can be brought in to spread the load. It has one apparent disadvantage, however, and that is that there is no simple and obvious way to finance the central international body if it does not have a large population of individual members. Consequently l'AILA is not yet ade-

quately established in terms of money and must now try to work out with the national associations a system by which some proportion of the subscriptions paid to the national associations is made available to the central body. We shall also make a direct approach for funds to the Council of Europe, UNESCO, the British Council, the *Bureau d'Etude and de Liaison*, and similar interested bodies. In addition, individual subscriptions (15/– per annum) are welcome, and should be sent to Professor Hans Eggers, Germanistisches Institut, Universität des Saarlandes, Saarbrücken.

The next major activity of l'AILA will probably be the Second International Colloquium of Applied Linguistics. When l'AILA was founded, it was decided to hold conferences of this kind at intervals of approximately two years. Accordingly, we hope to hold the next one at the Language Center of the University of Essex, Colchester, from April 3rd to 7th, 1967.

Not the least important of l'AILA's activities is the provision of information to its members and to others who are interested. We are particularly grateful to the editors of *T.A. INFORMATIONS* (Paris) and of *IRAL* (Heidelberg) for making the offer of a regular amount of space for news of our disciplines and our associations. Readers who have interesting or useful information about developments in applied linguistics are asked to write at once to Mme. Hirschberg, Centre de Linguistique Automatique Appliquée, 145 Ave. Adolphe Buyl, Bruxelles 5.

Peter Strevens
Professor of Applied Linguistics
University of Essex